



District III News

District III Council Member Jim Skelton

Wichita Police Department Helicopter is Major Asset to City

The mission of the Air Section is to assist and support ground units of Wichita Police Department involved in field operations. The superior agility of the helicopter and enhanced visibility improve officer safety. The Unit's efforts are directed toward meeting the needs of the citizens of Wichita and the surrounding community.

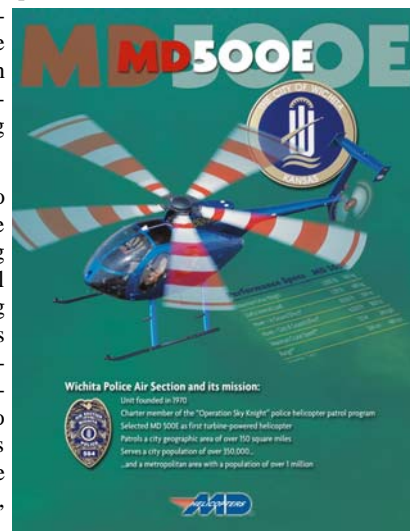
The Air Section is a Community Policing support unit. The Unit's helicopters have been a familiar and welcome police presence in the skies over Wichita for the last 35 years carrying out the Department's Community Policing Philosophy of "treating everyone with dignity, courtesy, and respect while utilizing all available resources to solve problems."

There are many instances of Air Support assistance for

WPD Officers on the ground with apprehensions, foot chases, criminal investigations, traffic control, search-and-rescue, crime prevention, community-oriented policing activities, and special community events. By including the helicopter into every day operations, proactive helicopter patrols have become effective partners in deterring, preventing, and suppressing crime.

The helicopter also serves as a "force multiplier," creating the psychological effect of police being everywhere. Besides assisting and supporting its own officers, the Unit also routinely answers calls for assistance from county, state,

and federal law enforcement agencies. In addition to its traditional crime-fighting role, the Air Section frequently provides assistance to various other City departments in the form of aerial photography, surveying, troubleshooting and transportation.



Phyllis Hall Remembered

Whitney Village Park, 4270 E Whitney, was rededicated as the Phyllis Hall Memorial Park on March 18. The park was established as part of a neighborhood initiative led by Phyllis Hall in the early 1990s.

She was a tireless worker in Planeview, always seeking to improve conditions in the neighborhood and the lives of the residents. Every year at Christmas she joined forces with the Planeview Neighborhood Association

to hold a festive Christmas Party for the Planeview residents, complete with dinner and presents for the children.

Phyllis also served on the District III Advisory Board from 2001 through 2005.



To add a friend or neighbor to the District III mailing list, please e-mail Neighborhood Assistant Janet Johnson at jjohnson@wichita.gov or call the Colvin Neighborhood City Hall at 303-8029.

Three Stormwater Projects Slated for District III

The 2005 through 2014 Capital Improvement Program has identified three stormwater projects in District III for design and construction. These include Dry Creek Channel Improvements between Lincoln and Orme; Gypsum Creek Channel Improvements between Pawnee and Woodlawn; and Gypsum Creek Channel Improvements west of Hillside.

West of Hillside, the Gypsum Creek Channel Improvements will benefit the area by providing a 100-year flood protection and improving the creek bank. A consultant is being hired to revise and update the plans based on the 2003 restudy of Gypsum Creek. The project is scheduled to go out for bid in December 2006. Once the plans have been updated and a more detailed cost estimate is done, the current CIP budget will be evaluated for

sufficiency.

The Gypsum Creek Channel Improvements between Pawnee and Woodlawn will improve the channel to reduce the number of structures that flood in this area. The City has preliminarily identified 62 structures in the 100-year floodplain and another 139 structures in the 500-year floodplain. There may also be other homes that are subject to localized flooding that are not identified in the FEMA special flood hazard areas.

City Engineering has hired a consultant, and met with area residents in January to learn more about the neighborhood's concerns. Concept plans are to be developed by May 2006, with final plans completed in early 2007. The CIP has \$2.1 million budgeted for the construction in December 2007.

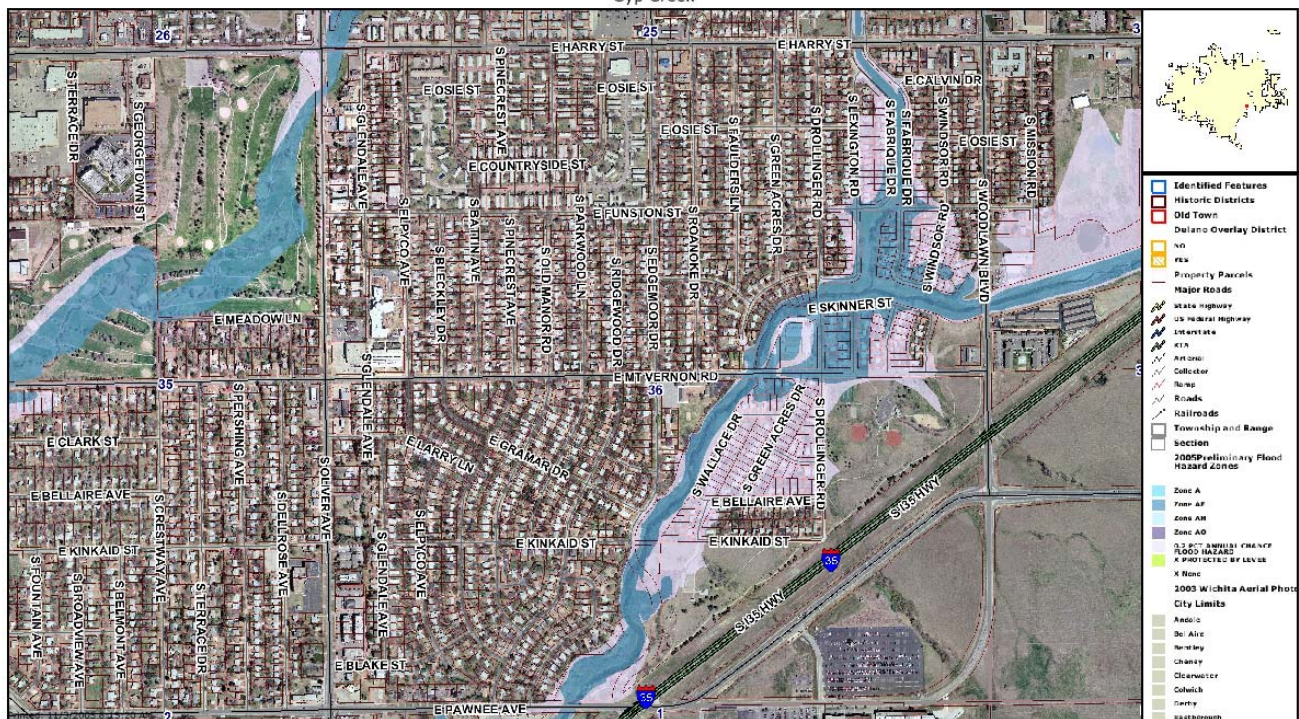
Improvement for the Dry Creek Channel between Lincoln and Orme is another channel project that will reduce the number of homes located in the floodplain. The FEMA flood study is currently being updated, and has identified 15 structures in the floodway, 62 structures in the 100-year floodplain and another 15 structures in the 500-year floodplain.

The City is in the process of choosing a consultant. Once selected, the consultant will begin design immediately.

Engineering staff will have an open house meeting for the neighborhood within a month of hiring a consultant. The CIP has \$1.2 million budgeted for the construction, which is expected to begin in June 2007.

Floodmap

Gyp Creek



This map was prepared for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, by the City Engineer's Office. It is based on data provided by the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, and the City Engineer's Office. The City Engineer's Office is not responsible for the accuracy of the data provided by the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, or for the accuracy of the map. The City Engineer's Office is not responsible for the accuracy of the data provided by the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, or for the accuracy of the map. The City Engineer's Office is not responsible for the accuracy of the data provided by the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, or for the accuracy of the map.

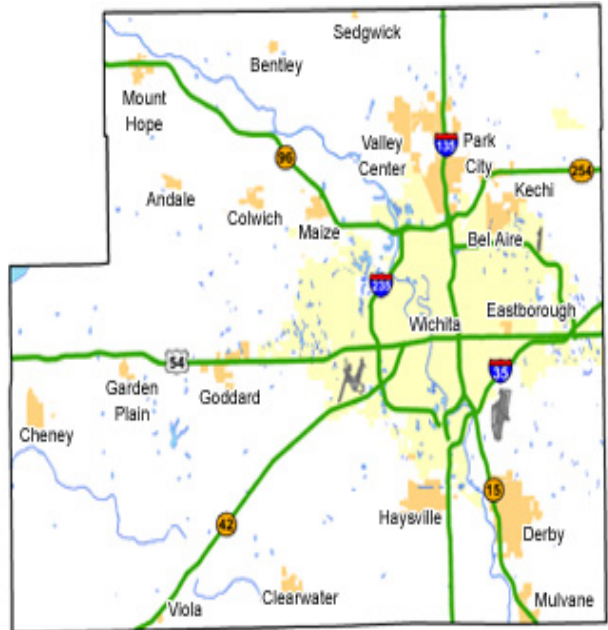
Dist III Councilman Jim Skelton Appointed to S.C.A.C.

Wichita City Council member Jim Skelton and Assistant City Manager of Operations Scott Moore have been appointed to the Sedgwick County Association of Cities (S.C.A.C.).

The S.C.A.C., established primarily to enhance communications between the 20 incorporated cities in Sedgwick County, seeks to improve the quality of life through effective government and to promote good government through education, training and leadership.

"I look forward to serving our city in this role, and by working on building partnerships with our neighbor cities," Council member Skelton said. "We all share common goals, and working on them together benefits Wichita and other cities in Sedgwick County."

S.C.A.C.'s objectives include promoting a closer working relationship between the Incorporated Cities; identifying legislative needs, particularly during the Kansas Legislative Session; speaking with a collective voice on matters brought before the Association, cooperating with other government organizations to promote the general welfare of S.C.A.C. communities as long as a firm base of Home Rule Powers is retained for each individual entity; promoting continuing education and sharing of information with all city officials.



Two New Parks for South Wichita

Two new parks are slated for South Wichita according to Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation for the City of Wichita. Both parks will offer unique additions to Wichita's park system.

Chapin Park will contain 190 acres, making it a regional park with a higher level of amenities. It is well located with nearby access to and from I-135 off of south Hydraulic, an arterial

street, as is MacArthur. A consultant will be retained to gather data from citizens in the surrounding community regarding desired park features.

Currently the park is used by radio control model airplane hobbyists. They appreciate the wide open space of the park and have made some improvements. As the park is developed their needs will be ac-

"Wichita's parks are a fantastic place to relax with my wife and daughters," said Council member Jim Skelton

commodated.

The other park will be at Hydraulic and 55th Street South next to a wastewater plant. The unlimited supply of

"gray" water means planting possibilities for this park are unlimited. Look for beautiful colored flower beds, bushes and trees.

Big Turnout for March Constituent Lunch

Seventy residents of District III turned out on Saturday, March 18 for Council Member Jim Skelton's bi-monthly constituent lunch at Furr's Family Dining, 1606 S. Georgetown.

It was announced that the Hilltop area will be receiving new sidewalks. Petitions were submitted earlier this year calling for improved sidewalks

and improved street lighting. The street lighting situation is being reviewed by the Public Works Department at this time.

The next constituent meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 10 at Furr's Family Dining and will feature the WPD Air Section.

Everyone is welcome to attend!



City Manager
George Kolb



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Serving all of District III



Jim's Column: Citizen Involvement

Citizen involvement is paramount to the maintenance and improvement of neighborhoods and the city. The most basic is that of exercising the right to vote. However, there are opportunities that exist for citizens to further become involved, and as in voting; enact change. Many citizen committees exist that are working on developing solutions to long-time issues.

District III planning committees that currently exist are the South Area/Haysville Plan Core Committee, The South Central Plan Steering Committee, and soon to come is the Hilltop Revitalization Committee. The South Area/Haysville Committee and the South Central Committee are relatively new and are working diligently to revise, prioritize and implement action plans for those geographic areas. The Hilltop Revitalization Committee will

likely be comprised of members representing neighborhood, business, and non-profit agencies that serve the area. The Hilltop group will be working on many of the same issues in their neighborhood that the South side committees are working on.

If joining these committees doesn't appeal to you, consider that most neighborhood organizations have citizen committees that also do important work. Neighborhood committees are commonly boards that lead efforts for involvement and improvement within neighborhood areas. One of the very beneficial activities that neighborhood groups organize and participate in are neighborhood clean-ups. These clean-ups are a good source of involvement and citizens can see immediate, positive results. There are many neighborhood groups within District III, with

new ones constantly forming. The newest group is the Dry Creek Homeowners Association, which will be electing officers for their organization in the near future.

Each of the organizations and committees that is citizen-driven is very important to the overall success and quality of life in District III.

To quote the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead :

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

For more information on citizen groups in your neighborhood, feel free to call me at my office in City Hall at 268-4331 or my Neighborhood Assistant Janet Johnson at 303-8030.